

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **BROWN BILL TO EXTEND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADVISORY COMMITTEE PASSED**

INDIANAPOLIS -- The Indiana House of Representatives on Monday unanimously passed House Bill 1325, legislation coauthored by State Rep. Charlie Brown (D-Gary), that extends the life of the state's Prescription Drug Advisory Committee.

Brown had originally introduced the legislation that established the committee nearly a decade ago. Without House Bill 1325, the group will go out of existence at the end of this year. The bill extends the term of the committee until December 2007.

"This legislation was about to sunset, but I feel that the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services is still in need of the advice this valuable committee gives," said Brown.

House Bill 1325 also provides that the Prescription Drug Advisory Committee make recommendations to avoid duplication of or conflict with the federal Medicare prescription drug benefit program. Furthermore, this bill enables the Secretary of Family and Social Services to enroll eligible Hoosiers in both the state and federal prescription drug benefit plans.

"House Bill 1325 will allow us to streamline the process of dispensing prescription drug benefits to people in need," said Brown. "By removing the redundancies that exist, we will be able to better use our time and resources to help those who use Hoosier Rx, our state program that helps seniors on lower incomes get the prescription drugs they need to stay healthy."

House Bill 1325 will now move to the Senate for further consideration.